

## Make the Road Connecticut

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March 8th, 2023



Dear Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

My name is Barbara Lopez, and I am a resident of New Haven and executive director of Make the Road CT. We stand in support of H.B. 6859: An Act Concerning Predictable Scheduling. Make the Road Connecticut is a community based organization that builds power of immigrants and low-income Latinx communities in Bridgeport and Hartford. We believe our community deserves to live with dignity and to be seen for their humanity, regardless of their citizenship status, gender, race, class, sexuality or religion. We do this through community organizing, providing legal/survival services, investing in transformative leadership, and supporting policy innovation. Our priorities are fighting for economic and housing justice, education equity, healthcare and immigration reform. Our member base consists of over 1,000 members and growing.

Over the past 8 years, Make the Road CT has been talking to workers about issues with scheduling in their workplace and each year things get more precarious. Workers from fast food and retail stores all share the common issue: loss wages due to last minute cancellation or reduced hours, have experienced being behind on rent, bills or opting to buy less groceries because of the unreliability of their income; of workers who tried addressing the issues with their employers were informed that is how the business is and if they don't like it they can leave and much more.

A stable job would provide workers the support they need to raise their families with dignity, without the fear of knowing how much they will be getting paid and with the guarantee that their check will be enough to provide a good life for their families. Predictable Scheduling H.B.6859 allows working families to thrive and not survive in their day to day lives and also provides infrastructure for employer flexibility and management discretion and enabling basic standards across CT.

I support H.B. 6859 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. We can no longer wait another year for our working families to go without. Thank you for your time.

*Barbara Lopez*

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